



Suffolk County Voter

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Wednesday November 16 LWVSC Board Meeting, Riverhead Library, 10:00am - 12:00noon

November 2011

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Suffolk County Executive Debate on Tuesday, November 1, 7 to 9pm

Candidates Steve Bellone and Angie Carpenter have agreed to participate in a debate sponsored and moderated by LWVSC with additional sponsors Touro Law Center, Touro Student Bar Association, and the Long Island Women's Agenda at the Touro Law Center Auditorium in Central Islip.

(Just east of the Alfonse D'Amato United States Courthouse, north of Southern State Pkwy at Carleton Ave.)

The debate is scheduled for 7-9pm, but the audience must be seated by 7pm. Please attend!

Defending Long Island's Water Supply:

No Time or Water to Waste

Saturday, November 5 2 to 5pm

Cold Spring Harbor Library

Admission is free

Symposium: "Integrating Restorative

Practices Into Our Justice System"

Friday, November 18 8am to 3pm

Touro Law Center, Central Islip

www.crp-ny.com to register

NEW YORK, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Saying that New York's family courts are "in crisis," a citizen-based court-monitoring program has issued a report making wide-ranging recommendations for the improved functioning of the Suffolk County Family Court, from better interpretation services to alternatives to juvenile detention.

Over 11 months, 32 volunteers (including LWVSC members) visited courthouses in Central Islip and Riverhead, observing hundreds of cases involving child abuse and neglect, custody and visitation, domestic violence and juvenile delinquency, among other issues.

While the monitors said they were "favorably impressed" with many aspects of the family courts' operation, the report identified several areas for improvement. These included scheduling, assistance with paperwork and community involvement in juvenile proceedings. Among the report's recommendations were that the court should make private spaces available for meetings between parties and their lawyers.

The report also urged the court to "explain orders of protection more thoroughly," and to improve courtroom scheduling and decorum and increase the use of available microphones. The Fund for Modern Courts began monitoring New York state courts in 1975, and conducts one to two monitoring projects a year in family, county, city and other courts.

2011 Post Election Breakfast

Sunday November 13, 2011

10:30am—1:30pm Bellport Country Club

Hear about local issues, campaigns, and elections from our local Leagues, and enjoy insights and stories behind the election from Rick Brand, political columnist of Newsday

**Cost: League Members (paid in advance) \$30
 Non-members or Pay at the Door \$35**

**Please make checks payable to LWVNYSEF and mail BEFORE Nov. 5
 To Marilyn McKeown, 15 Mott Lane, Brookhaven, NY 11719**

For information contact Susan Wilson sswilson@hamptons.com 283-6549